IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants do not offer any amendment, but all claims have been presented for the convenience of the Examiner.

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising a second media transformation processor coupled to the mixing processor, the second media transformation processor operable to receive an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device, to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the first participant, and to communicate the input media information associated with the first participant to the mixing processor.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the first media transformation processor is further operable to receive an input data stream from the second participant's end-user device, to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the second participant, and to communicate the input media information associated with the second participant to the mixing processor.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the mixing processor is further operable to receive an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device and to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the first participant.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

7.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, further comprising:

receiving at a second media transformation processor an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device;

decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the first participant; and

communicating the input media information associated with the first participant from the second media transformation processor to the mixing processor.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, further comprising:

receiving at the first media transformation processor an input data stream from the second participant's end-user device;

decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the second participant;

communicating the input media information associated with the second participant from the first media transformation processor to the mixing processor; and

mixing the input media information associated with the second participant with input media information from one or more other participants to generate output media information for communication to a first participant.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, further comprising:

receiving at the mixing processor an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device; and

decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the first participant.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

15. (Withdrawn) A system resource management (SRM) module coupled to one or more media transformation processors and one or more mixing processors in a conferencing device, the SRM module operable to receive a request to support a media conference and, in response, to allocate the media conference to at least a first media transformation processor and a mixing processor, wherein the mixing processor mixes input media information associated with two or more participants in the media conference to generate output media information and the first media transformation processor encodes the output media information to generate an output data stream for communication to a participant in the media conference.

16. (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein:

the SRM module is further operable to communicate to the mixing processor control information identifying the first media transformation processor; and

the mixing processor uses the control information to communicate the output media information to the first media transformation processor.

17.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the SRM module is further operable to allocate the media conference to a second media transformation processor that decodes an input data stream received from a participant in the media conference to generate input media information.

18.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 17, wherein:

the SRM module is further operable to communicate to the second media transformation processor control information identifying the mixing processor; and

the second media transformation processor uses the control information to communicate the generated input media information to the mixing processor.

19.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the SRM module is further operable to store status information identifying the first media transformation processor and mixing processor supporting the media conference.

20.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

21.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

22.   (Withdrawn) The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

23.   (Withdrawn) Media conference migration software embodied in a computer-readable medium in a conferencing device, the conferencing device including one or more media transformation processors and one or more mixing processors, the media conference migration software operable to perform the following steps:

receiving a request to support a media conference;

assigning a mixing processor a task of mixing input media information associated with two or more participants to generate output media information; and

assigning a first media transformation processor a task of encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream for communication to a participant in the media conference.

24.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of communicating to the mixing processor control information identifying the first media transformation processor, wherein the mixing processor uses the control information to communicate the output media information to the first media transformation processor.

25.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of assigning a second media transformation processor a task of decoding an input data stream received from a participant in the media conference to generate input media information associated with the participant.

26.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 25 further operable to perform the step of communicating to the second media transformation processor control information identify the mixing processor, wherein the second media transformation processor uses the control information to communicate the generated input media information to the mixing processor.

27.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of storing status information identifying the tasks assigned to the first media transformation processor and the mixing processor.

28.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

29.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

30.   (Withdrawn) The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the conferencing device further comprises a mixing processor operable to mix the input media information to generate the output media information; and information and one or more media transformation processors operable to encode the output media information to generate the output data streams.

33.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the conferencing device further comprises one or more media transformation processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information; and information and a mixing processor operable to mix the input media information to generate the output media information.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the conferencing device is further operable to identify a coding standard used by a participant's end-user device to encode input media information and to encode output media information for communication to the participant's end-user device using the identified coding standard.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the processors are separate integrated circuits.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the processors are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

37. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 40, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

a mixing processor operable to mix input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant; and

a first media transformation processor coupled to the mixing processor, the first media transformation processor operable to receive the output media information from the mixing processor, to encode the output media information to generate an output data stream, and to communicate the output data stream to the second participant's end-user device.

39.   (Previously Presented) A method for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

mixing input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant;

communicating the output media information from a mixing processor to a first media transformation processor;

encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream; and

communicating the output data stream from the first media transformation processor to the second participant's end-user device.

40.   (Previously Presented) A system for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

a plurality of end-user devices coupled to a data network and operable to generate input media information, to encode the input media information to generate input data streams, and to communicate the input data streams using the data network; and

a conferencing device coupled to the data network, the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams;

wherein the end-user devices are further operable to receive the output data streams and to decode the output data streams to generate output media information.